

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

Ordnance soldier died defending comrades

War deaths hit home in Oregon

by Hal Bernton, Seattle Times staff reporter

PENDLETON, Ore. — Army Staff Sgt. Tony Stever made it to Baghdad but didn't make it home.

He was ambushed April 8 en route to the city center, and mortally wounded as he sought to push a fellow soldier out of the line of fire. Family and friends got word of his death the next day as U.S. television screens replayed images of Saddam Hussein's statue falling in a downtown Baghdad square.

"It was really tough," said Stella Yarbrough, Stever's mother. "The army was at my door at 6 a.m."

Stever, who was buried yesterday, was the fifth Oregon-reared serviceman known to have died in the war, the highest death toll of the Pacific Northwest states.

How they lost their lives offers grim snapshots of the conflict. One serviceman perished in a Humvee accident; another in a helicopter

crash. One died in a supply-convoy ambush in southern Iraq. Another never made it out of Kuwait, killed by what appeared to be a sneak attack by a renegade U.S. soldier.

Stever, 36, was the last of the five to die. During his memorial service yesterday, an honor guard of Fort Lewis soldiers was on hand to carry his casket, and Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano gave his widow a Bronze Star and an American flag draped over his polished wooden casket.

"America needs to know about people like Tony Stever," said Maj. Thomas Cox, a Fort Lewis chaplain. "There are children who will tell their children about the choices that Tony made."

In memory of SteverThe family has set up an education fund for Stever's daughter. Contributions can be sent to the Nichole Stever Education Fund, c/o Old Missouri National Bank, Attn: James Holstein, P.O. Box 14050, Springfield, Mo., 65814-0050.

Stever grew up in a state with no active-duty military bases. But like

much of Washington, Oregon has a strong tradition of military service, and over the years has sent thousands of men and women into the armed forces. The state is the legal residence of more than 17,700 active-duty troops, according to the Defense Department.

Some of the recruits have come from urban areas such as Portland or Salem; four of the Oregon-reared troops who died in the invasion of Iraq grew up

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Troops from Fort Lewis fold an American flag yesterday during a memorial service in Pendleton, Ore., for Army Staff Sgt. Tony Stever. Photo by Bruce Ely, The Oregonian

War deaths hit home in Oregon continued

along the Interstate 5 corridor. Others come from places like Pendleton, a town of about 16,000 that sends about 30 each year to join the Army, according to recruiting officials.

In Pendleton, a strong streak of patriotism helps draw people into the military. But the military also offers a way out of a town hard hit by the closure of timber mills and years of low crop prices.

“It’s a wonderful town. It’s a caring town. But it’s a little town, and there’s not a lot of opportunities to grow and make a future for yourself,” Yarbrough said.

Friends remember Stever as a shy boy who was born with misaligned eyes that sometimes made him the brunt of jokes by other kids. But as he matured, he gained confidence and was respected by many as a kind, good-natured young man who loved to fish, hunt and take long pickup rides into the Blue Mountains south of town. He also served as a volunteer firefighter, and was always eager for action.

“Tony wanted to be the first to do whatever we were going to do,” said Jack Remillard, Pendleton’s assistant fire chief. “He was the kind of kid that you needed to hold back on occasion.”

Stever joined the Army in 1991, pursuing a career as a mechanic through tours in Kansas, Germany and Bosnia and at Fort Stewart, Ga., where he was a staff sergeant with the 3rd Battalion, 15th Mechanized Infantry, 2nd Brigade of the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division.

Stever arrived in Kuwait in October at the onset of the U.S. military buildup. He was a cheerful soldier, always ready to lend a hand or fashion a makeshift Christmas tree out of wire to fete the holiday season, said Sgt. Thomas Pemberton, a friend from the unit who gave a tear-choked eulogy during yesterday’s memorial service.

Stever’s Kuwait tent mates eventually included the late TV correspondent David Bloom. Once the war began, Stever’s friends and family could track the course of the journey north into Iraq by watching Bloom’s live broadcasts from a perch atop a specially modified M88 tank-recovery vehicle. Stever was usually close at hand, often driving another M88 either just behind or in front of Bloom.

Through sandstorms, heat and battle, Bloom bonded with Stever and other members of the unit. Bloom often lent them his satellite phone, so Stever was able to call his parents, wife Cyndi and 10-year-old daughter, Nichole.

“I told him to stay safe and not to volunteer for anything, and he said ‘Yeah, right, mom,’ “ Yarbrough recalled of one of her early chats with her son. In another call, Stever said his M88 had been destroyed by enemy fire. He had not been in the vehicle. But he had lost all of his belongings, including his last spare pair of underwear.

Then Bloom disappeared from the TV screen, and the phone calls stopped. Watching MSNBC, Yarbrough was stunned to learn that Bloom died April 6 from a pulmonary embolism.

Meanwhile, the 3rd Infantry Division was closing in on Baghdad.

By April 8, the day of Stever’s death, the division had taken over the airport on the outskirts of town. That morning, the division pushed toward the center of town, but the front-line tanks got caught in a firefight.

With fuel and ammunition running low, a supply convoy fought to come up from the rear with fresh supplies. Stever was in a personnel carrier with Chief Angel Acevedo when their convoy came under attack. Stever used his machine gun, helping to beat back the Iraqis and allow the convoy to move forward.

Acevedo, in published interviews, offered only a brief account of Stever’s final moments.

“The last thing he said to me was ‘Hey, chief, I’m protecting everybody, and I’m shooting a weapon.’ So he was smiling. He was proud of what he was doing,” Acevedo said.

Army officials at the service said Stever pushed Acevedo out of the way of an incoming round. The round then struck Stever.

The memorial service was attended by dozens of relatives and friends, as well as Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski. They filed out of the funeral hall into the bright spring sun, and then — joined by a fleet of firetrucks — threaded through town and into the hill country to the south. There, Stever would be laid to rest in a cemetery surrounded by fields of green young wheat.

Seattle Times researcher Miyoko Wolf contributed to this report.

In memory of Stever

The family has set up an education fund for Stever’s daughter. Contributions can be sent to the Nichole Stever Education Fund, c/o Old Missouri National Bank, Attn: James Holstein, P.O. Box 14050, Springfield, Mo., 65814-0050.



U.S. Marines from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment practice riot control drills outside of their camp Monday, April 21, 2003, in Numiniyah, Iraq. (AP Photo/U.S. Marine Corps, Cpl. Shawn C. Rhodes)

U.S. forces in Iraq arrest Tariq Aziz

by Matt Kelley

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. officials, pleased to have former Iraqi official Tariq Aziz in custody, say they're optimistic even more wanted Iraqis will be captured in coming days. A top Iraqi intelligence officer was the latest apprehension confirmed Friday.

Aziz, a former deputy prime minister and foreign minister under Saddam Hussein, was the 12th man on the American list of 55 most wanted Iraqis taken into custody. The Pentagon says three others, including Saddam's cousin Ali "Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid, have been killed.

A spokesman at Central Command headquarters in Qatar, Lt. Herb Josey, said Aziz surrendered on Thursday. Josey gave no further details.

Aziz's prominence in the regime could make him a source for the best information yet on the fate of Saddam and his two sons, as well as the location of any hidden weapons of mass destruction.

The capture of top Iraqi figures could prompt other wanted officials to turn themselves in, Pentagon officials said. Information from the others already in custody also could lead to more on the wanted list, the officials said.

Aziz was No. 43 on the U.S. most-wanted list, the eight of spades in the military's card deck of top Iraqi leaders.

On Friday, a U.S. official confirmed that former Iraqi senior intelligence operative Farouk Hijazi has been captured by U.S. forces in Iraq.

Hijazi is Iraq's ambassador to Tunisia and was not among the top 55 most wanted officials. But Hijazi, who also has served as Iraq's ambassador to Turkey, still is considered a prize catch.

He is "the biggest catch so far I would say," said former CIA Director James Woolsey told CNN on Friday morning.

Hijazi allegedly met with Osama bin Laden in Kandahar, a region in southeastern Afghanistan where the al Qaida had training camps, U.S. officials have said. It's not known what might have been discussed at the December 1998 meeting. Iraqi officials denied Hijazi met with bin Laden.

As for Aziz, he was the only Christian in Saddam's inner circle, most of whom were Sunni Muslims like Saddam. He served as foreign

minister during the 1991 Persian Gulf War and was a frequent spokesman at that time.

In Great Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair's office described Aziz's detention as "a welcome development."



With his flawless English, the silver-haired Aziz also frequently represented his government's views to Western media, denouncing the United States and claiming Iraq had no chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

He last appeared in public March 19, when he held a news conference in Baghdad to quash rumors he had fled the Iraqi capital.

"I am carrying my pistol to confirm to you that we are ready to fight the aggressors," Aziz said then. "American soldiers are nothing but mercenaries and they will be defeated."

Although he was one of Saddam's most loyal aides, Aziz, like most who were not from Saddam's Tikriti clan, had virtually no power, U.S. officials have said. That could explain his longevity in Saddam's inner circle - without an independent power base, he posed no threat.

Saddam promoted him after the Gulf war to deputy prime minister, forcing him to relinquish the foreign ministry portfolio. Some believe this reshuffle

had to do with Saddam's discomfort with Cabinet ministers who became too well known.

Saddam's son Odai did not like Aziz. In 1996, Aziz's son Ziad was arrested for corruption in what Baghdad insiders saw as a turf battle between Ziad and Odai, who was equally known for graft.

Ziad Aziz served about two years in prison for corruption before Saddam pardoned him. Tariq Aziz has two daughters and another son, named Saddam.

Despite his fluctuating relationship with Saddam, Tariq Aziz retained influence, if not power.

In early 1990, Saddam toyed with opening up his regime and introducing a new constitution that would grant limited freedoms. Aziz advised against this, saying it would be the beginning of the

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MINE AWARENESS — Soldiers assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion and the 9th Psyop Battalion talk with local Iraqis as they distribute fliers on mine awareness in the neighborhoods of Kirkuk in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Gary L. Kieffer

Missiles seized in eastern Afghanistan

by Janullah Hashimzada

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) - Authorities have seized four anti-aircraft missiles in house in eastern Afghanistan, a senior Afghan official said Friday. The find was in the same Nangarhar province where suspected Islamic militants this week killed three Afghan soldiers with a land mine.

The missiles were discovered Wednesday in a house in Dera Said Mian, 15 miles southeast of Jalalabad, said Afghan Gen. Said Agha Saqib.

Saqib said the raid was conducted on a tip-off, but no arrests were made. He said the missiles were U.S.-made, but there were also reports they may have been Russian-made SAM-7 heat-seeking anti-aircraft missiles.

It was unclear whether fugitive Taliban or al-Qaida fighters had stored the missiles in the house.

An official at the Laghman governor's house, speaking on condition of anonymity, said U.S. helicopters often flew over the village on their way to Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, authorities in Nangarhar have arrested 24 people in the search for suspected militants who blew up a vehicle ferrying Afghan soldiers from Jalalabad to Tora Bora, the mountainous region heavily bombed by U.S. forces in December 2001 after the fall of the Taliban government.

Two soldiers were killed in the attack Wednesday. A third died of injuries on Thursday.

Gen. Haji Musa, head of the 9th Afghan Army Brigade that operates in the area, said Taliban fugitives and their al-Qaida allies were behind the attack, but did not elaborate on whether those detained had any links with either group.

Attacks on Afghanistan's fledgling army and police as well as government officials and foreigners have increased in recent months, especially in southern and eastern areas close to the country's long, porous border with Pakistan.

Afghan leaders have urged Pakistan to do more to prevent Islamic militants from crossing into Afghanistan.

U.S. forces in Iraq arrest Tariq Aziz continued

end of Baath party rule. Saddam listened and the reforms never transpired.

Aziz in the 1990s was Saddam's deputy on the foreign affairs and media committees, interpreting Saddam's policies to the ministers in those areas. He also conducted the government's political negotiations with the U.N. weapons inspectors.

Born in 1936 near the northern city of Mosul, Aziz studied English literature at Baghdad College of Fine Arts and became a teacher and journalist. He joined the Baath Party in 1957, working closely with Saddam to overthrow the British-imposed monarchy.

Aziz changed his name from Mikhail Yuhanna. In Arabic, Tariq Aziz means "glorious past."

He was wounded in a 1980 assassination attempt by an Iranian-backed Islamic fundamentalist group named ad-Dawa Islami, the Islamic Call. Members of the group threw a grenade at him in downtown Baghdad, killing several people.

The attack was one of several Saddam blamed on Iran, part of his justification for his expulsion of large numbers of Shiite Muslims and his September 1980 invasion of Iran.

Aziz was instrumental in restoring diplomatic relations with the United States in 1984 after a 17-year break. He had met in 1983 with Donald H. Rumsfeld, then a private envoy from President Reagan and now defense secretary. At the time, the United States backed Iraq as a buffer against Iran's Islamic extremism.

JAG attorney wants to prevent POW identity theft

by Charlie Coon, Stars and Stripes

on the loan.

Captured servicemembers for decades have been giving the enemy their name, rank and serial number.

"It's incredible how much you can find out about a person on the Internet, sometimes simply just by knowing their name."

A judge advocate says the practice should be abolished because a captor can now use a prisoner's serial number — that is, his Social Security number — against him.

"As an attorney, I'm always worried about my privacy," said Maj. Jefferson D. Reynolds, a reservist assigned to Special Operations Command, Stuttgart, Germany. "As a JAG, my job is to look at potential vulnerabilities of the guys I serve, especially for those in the operational realm [surveillance, etc.]."

"We have guys in harm's way on regular basis. If anybody's going to be taken POW, it's going to be guys like that."

Reynolds cowrote a 23-page academic article criticizing Article V of the U.S. Military Code of Conduct. The article will be published in May in the Boston University International Law Journal.

If a prisoner's captors are computer savvy, Reynolds said, they can know a prisoner's address and family members in less than an hour.

Reynolds, a 37-year-old native of Elgin, Ill., is a civilian environmental attorney at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M. He served seven years of active duty in the Air Force and is now in his second tour as a reservist in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Reynolds said he hoped his article will spur the Department of Defense to update the code of conduct.

"I'm not doing it to piss anybody off," Reynolds said. "As an attorney and an officer, these are the things we're supposed to be doing. For the guys down on the ground and the guys I work with, it's definitely the right thing to do."

Others agree with Reynolds.

Captors who obtain a POW's birthdate and Social Security number can quickly start pretending to be that person, according to Bill Haslinger, an assistant professor in the Economic Crime Investigation Department at Hilbert College in Hamburg, N.Y.

"You could establish a cell- phone account pretty readily," Haslinger said. "You could open a bank account and get a loan, then default

Article V

U.S. Military Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct for U.S. Armed Forces was first published by President Eisenhower in Executive Order 10631 in 1955. It was later amended by President Carter in 1977. It outlines the basic responsibilities and obligations of all U.S. servicemembers to the United States.

Article V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

For example, telephone directories can be cross-referenced to find out a POW's address or even a spouse's name.

"The information that military personnel were historically authorized to give out can take on a much more dire consequence in today's warfare," Haslinger said.

Reynolds cowrote the article with Rick S. Lear, another JAG who is currently attending the University of Virginia.

Katherine Heid, a Boston University student and the law journal's editor-in-chief, said she was unaware that POWs were required to give their captors their Social Security number.

"[Reynolds' article] seemed really relevant for us with everything that's going on in the world right now," Heid said. "I hope something can be done because it sounds like a serious problem."

Heid said the May edition will include four professional articles, including the one by Reynolds and two pieces by law students. She said the edition would be printed in mid- to late-May, and that it would be available to Internet readers at a later date.

Reynolds said the Department of Defense abolished the traditional serial number in the late 1960s and replaced it with a servicemember's Social Security number.

"That replacement in my opinion was a really bad idea because of what you can do with a Social Security number now on the Internet," Reynolds said.

The Social Security number is printed on DOD ID cards, including the new ones that contain a chip which can enable access to personal information such as medical history.

Chief Master Sgt. Ricky Arnold, manager of the survival, evasion, resistance and escape program at the Pentagon, said the ID card will not compromise a prisoner's security if it falls into the enemy's hands.

The chip merely allows for electronic access to computer systems that contain personal data. When the card is reported lost or stolen, or when the cardholder is reported missing or captured, electronic access to that information is turned off, Arnold said.

U.S., China say ‘no nukes’ to North Koreans

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 24, 2003 – The North Korean government shouldn't feel threatened because the United States, China and other nations want the Korean peninsula to be nuclear- weapon-free, the top U.S. diplomat said here today.

North Korea, which is suspected of having one or two nuclear weapons, has “nothing to fear from de-nuclearization,” Secretary of State Colin L. Powell remarked at the U.S. Asia-Pacific Council Symposium.

In fact, neighbors like South Korea and Japan, Powell noted, “stand willing to help” North Korea in addressing its chronic food shortages and weak economy.

However, the secretary of state insisted that part and parcel of any solution “has to be ... de-nuclearization of the [Korean] peninsula.”

President Bush has opted to use multilateral diplomacy to peaceably solve the North Korea-nuke situation, Powell pointed out. Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and China have also called for North Korea to give up any nuclear weapons it is suspected of possessing.

“All of them, with us, have made it absolutely clear to North Korea that [a] nuclearized [Korean] peninsula is unacceptable,” Powell asserted.

“The Chinese,” he continued, have underscored that point “rather clearly.”

U.S.-North Korean relations have become increasingly strained since last fall, Powell noted, when U.S. officials found out the North Koreans were working on a secret, enriched-uranium nuclear weapons project in violation of a 1994 agreement. It is thought the North Koreans may already possess one or two nuclear weapons.

The United States is also concerned about North Korean development and exportation of long-range missile technology and related testing programs “that threaten the region,” Powell pointed out.

The North Koreans are reportedly upset because President Bush included them on his “Axis of Evil” list of nations, along with Iran, and Iraq – before Saddam Hussein was deposed. And, Powell noted, North Korea's state-run news media has been making warlike statements while accusing the United States of planning an attack.

The United States and North Korea's neighbors won't be intimidated “by bellicose statements or by threats or actions” to gain attention or coerce concessions, Powell pointed out. He cautioned that the North Koreans “would be very ill-advised to move in that direction.”

United States, North Korean and Chinese officials have met in Beijing



A North Korean soldier, right, glances at his South Korean counterpart at the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Seoul, South Korea, Friday, April 25, 2003. U.S. and North Korean negotiators ended three days of talks in Beijing as scheduled on Friday after a senior American official said North Korea claimed to have nuclear weapons and might test, export or use them depending on U.S. actions. (AP Photo/ Yun Jai-hyoung)

over the past two days, seeking a diplomatic solution to the impasse. Powell said he was “particularly impressed at China's willingness to play an active role in these discussions.”

“The meetings are coming to a close now,” Powell noted, adding that participants will assess what was said “and determine where we will go next.”

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Bush praises ‘American spirit of enterprise’ at tank plant

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 24, 2003 – The United States’ edge in warfighting comes, in part, from the “American spirit of enterprise, ... from great companies and great workers,” President Bush said this afternoon to a group of people who build Abrams tanks for a living.

“This is a fine place to talk about peace and security,” Bush said at the Lima (Ohio) Army Tank Plant. “Because, after all, it is this facility that has provided the American military with the most effective armored vehicle in the history of warfare – the mighty Abrams tank.”

Powerful weapons, like the Abrams, allow the U.S. military to strike “with speed and precision,” the president said. He noted the Abrams is “the most safe vehicle for our fighting forces (and) precise enough to protect innocent lives.”

When tank commanders in Iraq were having problems protecting the vehicles’ exhaust systems from enemy fire, plant workers in Lima “went right to work,” Bush said. Within a week, they had a part designed, manufactured and on the way to Iraq.

“When our soldiers and Marines needed you most – when the pressure was on – you came through,” the president told the cheering workers and their families. “And American is grateful.”

Bush singled out one welder in particular. Mark Springer, he said, “had an especially strong interest in completing the project, in making sure the Abrams were able to fulfill the mission.”

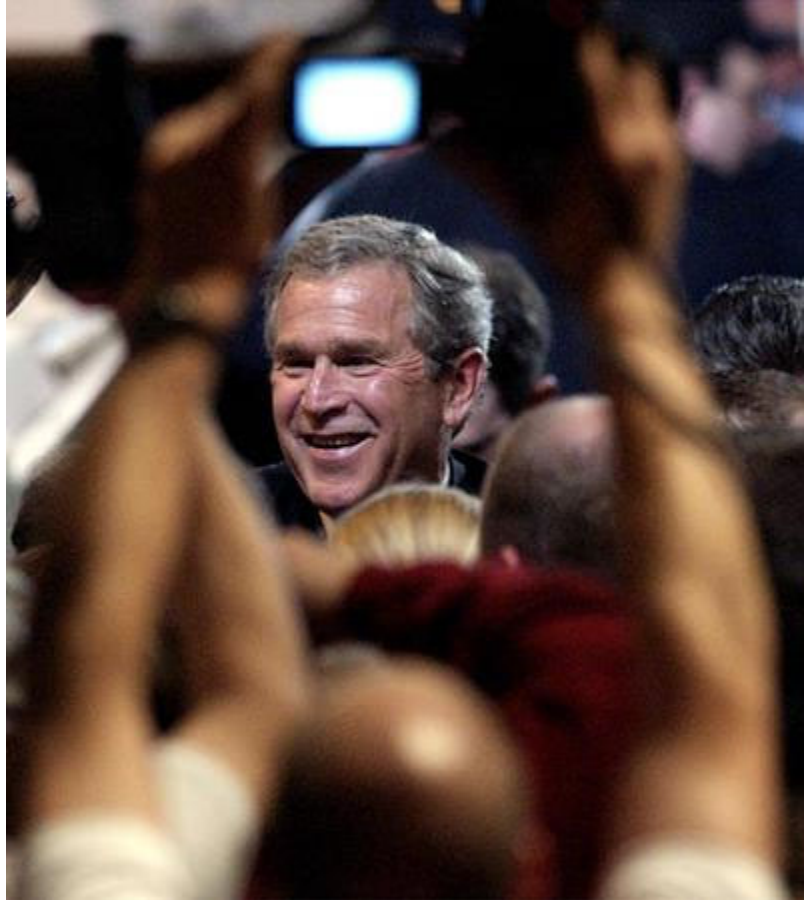
“You see, his son Joshua is serving in Iraq as an Abrams tank commander,” Bush said. He told the proud papa to tell his son “the commander in chief came to Lima to say how proud I am of his service and the others’ service to our country.”

The president told the factory workers how Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of coalition forces in the Persian Gulf, asked for 1,200 Abrams tanks as one of his first requests in preparing for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Abrams tank and Bradley fighting vehicle units were the first to cross into Iraq and fought “decisively” in the face of “fierce resistance in An Nasiriyah,” Bush said. “Throughout the campaign, our enemy learned that when Abrams tanks are on the battlefield, America means business.”

Bush spoke of how the Iraqi citizens are taking advantage of religious freedoms they haven’t known in 30 years. “A free society honors religion,” he said. “A free society is a society which believes in the freedom of religion.”

He spoke of public protests and religious displays as a positive development. “It means a new day has come in Iraq,” Bush said. “When Saddam Hussein was dictator and you spoke your mind, he



President Bush shakes hands with people after speaking at the Lima Army Tank Plant Thursday, April 24, 2003, in Lima, Ohio. (AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

would cut out your tongue and leave you to bleed to death in a town square.

“No foolin’,” Bush added. “That’s how he dealt with dissidents.”

Today in Iraq, there is discussion, debate and protest – “all the hallmarks of liberty,” he said. “The path to freedom may not always be neat and orderly, but it is the right of every person and every nation.”

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Army Col. Steven Bucci: the Secretary's team leader

by Zeno Gamble, Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2003 — More than 20 years ago, U.S. Army 1st Lt. Steven Bucci was a team leader in the mountains of Greece near the Yugoslavian border. Now, the Special Forces colonel is serving a two-year tour behind a desk at the Pentagon, armed only with a computer and a tomahawk he keeps as a memento from his A Team in 5th Special Forces Group.



The Green Beret officer has come a long way since his days as a young, g u n g - h o paratrooper. His assignments over the years have prepared him to be the calm, well-modulated voice of reason in the high-stress situations that occur daily in the Defense Department.

While his comrades in arms are doing legwork in Afghanistan and Iraq, Bucci oversees the

coordination of critical meetings and planning that support their work.

There is no job description that can accurately reflect Bucci's scope of duties as military assistant to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Diversity is commonplace, and every day goes by as if it were two, according to the colonel. In a small office shared with a Navy commander, Bucci rarely finds a moment to sit back and enjoy his window overlooking the Potomac River in the foreground and the National Mall across the river in Washington.

"In the Department of Defense," he explains, "there is a network of military assistants. Executive assistants serve military generals, and military officers serve civilians."

Bucci is one of two military assistants to the secretary; the other, a three-star general, is Rumsfeld's senior military assistant.

"Military assistants are the human grease that keep the Department of Defense and Joint Staff working," he said. "The duties are not the same as those of an aide. Our job is to let our bosses do their jobs correctly and effectively."

Bucci helps control the flow of information among the White House, the military services and the defense secretary. He tries to improve

efficiency and not much happens that he doesn't have his eye on. Bucci said he feels privileged to be able to contribute to the overall planning of worldwide operations.

"I answer phone calls from the White House and funnel papers into and out of the secretary's office – highlighting important information to be read," he said.

Despite his insistence that his is merely a sedentary job with nothing exciting to talk about, the colonel is constantly interrupted throughout the day by phone calls and visits from senior officials from the White House, CIA and State Department. The job requires the ability to think on the go and push information through the right channels to ensure crises are handled quickly.

The job has taken him to the presidential ranch in Waco, Texas, to the Intrepid Foundation Sea—Air-Space Museum in New York City, and he has carried the defense secretary's briefcase throughout the world. Somehow, Bucci manages to do all of this while drinking only decaffeinated coffee.

Life at the Pentagon, he's learned, is not always safer than duty in a war-torn nation overseas. Bucci, along with his wife Suzanne, were in the Pentagon when terrorists slammed a hijacked jet into the historic military headquarters.

Suzanne is a nurse practitioner who volunteers her help at the Pentagon Flight Clinic. Her first day was Sept. 11, 2001.

"I was in the executive support center that morning," Bucci recalled, "and I felt the whole building move when it happened. We didn't see each other until six hours later."

The colonel and his wife both became immersed in the chaos. Rumsfeld immediately rushed to the burning crash site, and Bucci wasn't far behind. Suzanne assisted in the triage of victims and ensured the rescue workers were hydrated and treated for injuries.

"After 9-11, Suzanne became an every day fixture in the Pentagon," Bucci said. She was originally scheduled to only work two days per week, but she came in every day to help wherever she was needed.

Duty in the Office of the Secretary of Defense continues to demand the utmost of Bucci and other members of the staff as the military combats global terrorism. The colonel and his wife can sometimes be seen on a park bench in the Pentagon's outdoor center courtyard, trying to get away from the workplace for a little while.

Despite the long hours and high-level responsibilities, Bucci has signed on for another 12 months in the secretary's office. What assignment could possibly follow that of military assistant to the defense secretary?

"I don't know," Bucci said. "The secretary has asked me to stay for a third year. So, whatever comes next, will have to wait."

(Zeno Gamble is a writer in the Executive Secretariat at the Pentagon.)

Copyright issue no joke with playing cards

by Lisa Burgess, Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — A new twist to the Pentagon's "55 most wanted Iraqis" playing card brouhaha has emerged: A major playing card company is claiming that it has property rights to images used on two of the cards.

As of Tuesday, there were more than 3,000 listings for the Iraq card decks and card-related items on the online marketplace site eBay.

But officials from United States Playing Card Co. feel they're getting dealt a bad hand.

In an e-mail message sent to Stripes on Monday that was followed by a telephone interview, George White, the company's vice president for marketing, said that the images of the joker used on two cards in DIA's decks are trademarked by Hoyle Official, a subsidiary of the United States Playing Card Co.

One of the joker cards shows Iraqi military ranks and the other shows Arab tribal titles.

The cards were originally developed and printed by the Defense Intelligence Agency, which printed 200 decks on its own presses, to help U.S. soldiers learn to recognize 55 Iraqi officials they are supposed to pursue, kill or capture.

The 200 decks were shipped to U.S. Central Command headquarters at Camp Doha, Qatar, where Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks featured them during an April 11 CENTCOM briefing.

At the time Brooks displayed the cards, they had not yet made their way to troops, according to Pentagon spokeswoman Megan Fox. The cards were handed out to troops sometime after April 15 or 16, but Fox said she was unable to provide details about which troops received the cards, or why those individuals were selected.

But no sooner had Brooks held up the deck than public interest in obtaining the cards exploded.

After receiving a barrage of requests for the cards from both military and civilian personnel who wanted souvenirs, DIA officials released computer ".pdf" files that allow anyone with Internet access to

download the playing card templates for free. And in the tradition of American entrepreneurial spirit, literally thousands of people have used government-supplied .pdf files to manufacture "collector's items."

United States Playing Card Co. had nothing to do with the DIA's project, but "we were happy" when the agency picked up the joker, White said.

But "while we have no problem with the U.S. military handing out a few hundred of these decks," White wrote, "once we saw other companies earning a profit by printing these decks including our joker, we have aggressively sought to protect our intellectual property."

United States Playing Card Co. is now sending out letters to other companies that are printing and selling the decks, warning them of copyright infringement, White said.

"There is a long list of people we're contacting," White said. "We've sent out dozens of letters. We've been pretty busy."

Meanwhile, "we have [also] requested that the DOD advise that this entire deck is not in the public domain as previously advertised," White wrote.

Only people who are printing the cards and then turning around and trying to make a buck need to fear the wrath of United Playing Card lawyers, White said — people who have downloaded the .pdf files and printed them for their personal enjoyment are not breaking the law.

In a telephone interview from eBay's San Jose, Calif., headquarters, spokesman Kevin Pursglove said Tuesday that eBay has not heard from the United States Playing Card Co. about its claim, but will work with the company if and when it is contacted.

"EBay will be hearing from us," White promised.

The company has received "a handful" of complaints from customers who say sellers are claiming to have "real" Iraqi cards, meaning one of the original 200 decks, Pursglove said. In response, eBay officials have removed "about 10 or 11" seller listings that were clearly fraudulent, he said.



Saddam Hussein ‘may’ be dead or severely injured, Bush says

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – “Some evidence” suggests Saddam Hussein may have died in air strikes that opened Operation Iraqi Freedom, President Bush said April 24.

In an interview with NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw, Bush revealed that the same source who told U.S. Central Command leaders Hussein and his sons would likely be at the location believes Hussein was killed or severely injured.

“I say ‘may’ because we don’t have the DNA in hand to prove” Hussein is dead, Bush said. “According to this one eyewitness, he’s not going to show up anywhere.”

In the wide-ranging interview aboard Air Force One as the president was returning from a trip to Ohio, he described his actions and reactions of March 19, the day of the first air strike in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Earlier that day, Bush had spoken to Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander of all forces in the Persian Gulf, to give him his marching orders. He had told Franks and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that Franks “had the con,” so to speak. The war was to begin when, in Franks’ best judgment, the time was right.

“I asked God for blessing on him and the troops,” Bush said. “He saluted; I saluted back and left the room.”

Bush told Brokaw that was a “heavy moment” because the knowledge that he had committed American troops weighed on his mind. “I then went outside and walked around the grounds,” he said, “just to get a little air and collect my thoughts.”

And that, the president thought, was that – until Rumsfeld called at about 3:40 that afternoon. “He said, ‘I would like to change the plans; I need your permission to change the plans. Can I come over?’” Bush recalled.

With the national security team – Vice President Richard Cheney, Rumsfeld, Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice — assembled, CIA and CENTCOM officials laid out intelligence from a source on the ground about Saddam’s whereabouts.

As the afternoon wore on and the group considered its options, the intelligence coming in from the undisclosed location became more and more solid. “As the intelligence got richer, I got more confident with the notion that Saddam would be there,” Bush said.

At 7:15 p.m. that evening, Bush gave the order for the attack to proceed. The world watched live on television as the bombs began dropping at about 9:30. Bush addressed the nation 45 minutes later.

Bush told Brokaw no declaration on Hussein’s fate will be made until officials are absolutely certain. “But the person who helped direct the attacks believes that Saddam, at the very minimum, was

severely wounded,” Bush said.

The president gave no more details on who that person was or in what capacity he was working, except to answer Brokaw’s question, “Is he still with us?”

“Yes, he is. He is with us,” Bush replied. “Thank God. A brave soul.”

Bush admitted the campaign in southern Iraq didn’t quite amount to the “shock and awe” that administration leaders had expected. “It turns out the (Iraqi) fighters were a lot fiercer than we thought,” he said. Part of that might be a result of no coalition forces moving into Iraq from the north, enabling the Iraqis to move more of their assets to the south.

“On the other hand, our troops handled it, handled it quite well,” he added.

He said the looting and protests are to be expected and don’t signal problems in creating a democratic government in Iraq.

Bush attributed the looting to vengeance against Hussein’s regime – “It’s like uncorking a bottle of frustration,” – and the protests of a people enjoying their first taste of freedom.

“There have been 20-plus years of tyranny,” Bush said. “It’s hard to believe that in 20 days democracy will emerge.”

He dismissed claims that democracy can’t flourish in the Persian Gulf. “It may not look like America,” Bush said. “You know, Thomas Jefferson may not emerge. But, nevertheless, I do believe there can be a representative government and all factions can be represented.”

He also clung to his conviction that Saddam Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruction. Time and investigation will prove these contentions, Bush said.

As more time passes, more Iraqi prisoners and civilians are cooperating with international investigation teams. Bush said Saddam may have “destroyed” or “dispersed” weapons of mass destruction before American troops came in.

Hundreds of sites in Iraq have yet to be investigated by exploitation teams. Of those, Bush said, only “about 90” have been checked out so far.

“We know he had a weapons of mass destruction program. We now know he’s not going to use them,” the president said. “So we’ve accomplished one objective, and that is that Saddam Hussein will not hurt the United States or (our) friends or our allies with weapons of mass destruction.”

www.goarmy.com

TRICARE complying with stricter rules on healthcare information

by Rudi Williams,
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2003 – TRICARE, like all other healthcare providers nationwide, is working under stricter rules when it comes to protecting patients' rights and the privacy of their health information.

And like its civilian counterparts, the TRICARE Management

Activity implemented the privacy portion of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act by the April 14 compliance deadline.

"Privacy of health information is extremely important to beneficiaries and the TRICARE activity," said Navy Cmdr. Sam Jenkins, TRICARE's HIPAA privacy officer. "The message we're trying to convey is that we're committed to the protection of the privacy of health information. We'll do everything we can to maintain its confidentiality and security."

The act, which Congress passed in 1996 and became Public Law 104-191, was designed to "combat waste, fraud and abuse, improve portability of health insurance coverage, and simplify administration of healthcare," according to a TRICARE brochure issued in January.

The measure affects health plans such as TRICARE, companies that perform electronic billing on behalf of military treatment facilities, physicians, dental clinics, pharmacies and business associates such as managed-care support contractors.

Laws that were already on the books, such as the Privacy Act, have always protected patients' medical information, Jenkins noted. "But what HIPAA does is inform individuals of what their rights are and TRICARE's responsibilities to protect health information, which hasn't been done in the past.

"The Notice of Privacy Practices describes patients' rights under HIPAA clearly and has been provided to beneficiaries in plain language so they can easily understand these rights," Jenkins said. "The act also requires us to have a contact to help patients manage their health information and those rights."

Complying with the new rules meant assigning treatment facility HIPAA privacy officers to assist patients in managing their health information and training nearly 130,000 healthcare professionals and workers worldwide. Implementing HIPAA also includes incorporating policies and procedures at treatment facilities to protect information.

It also included identifying and training more than 500 military

treatment facility privacy officers worldwide, developing marketing and training materials and mailing the Notice of Privacy Practices to TRICARE sponsor households.

TRICARE mailed more than 5 million notices to beneficiaries' homes between December 2002 and March 2003. The notices are also available at military treatment facilities.

"About 95 percent of the people who received the notice have understood it," Jenkins noted. But, he said, "we have received some further questions from people who don't understand why we've done that. We've screened and responded to those letters to help further explain the information." In addition, the privacy officers can "answer questions from beneficiaries."

Besides explaining the patients' rights under HIPAA and TRICARE's responsibilities, the notice tells beneficiaries how to file a complaint if they feel their health information has been inappropriately used.

Jenkins said patients have the right to read their medical records, have a copy made, request amendments or request restrictions of usages and disclosures of their health information.

"HIPAA makes us accountable to them for our management of their health information," he emphasized.

However, he pointed out that TRICARE and military treatment facilities are allowed to use health information for treatment, payment and healthcare operation activities.

"But there are other uses and disclosures of information that we must document," he said. "Patients can request an accounting of disclosures so they'll know exactly how their health information was used. This gives the individual control over their health information. We're obliged by the rule to do that for them."

Patients have the right to request an accounting of disclosures for up to six years, Jenkins noted.

"If the patient thinks there is erroneous information in his or her record, they may make a request to the treatment facility where the records are held for review of the information," Jenkins said.

But under some circumstances, information could be withheld from patients if healthcare professionals determine that releasing it would be harmful to them. For example, Jenkins said, "if some patients know they have a catastrophic disease, it may adversely affect how their body reacts to treatment." He said the same thing applies to other patients who may react adversely if they find out their treatment is going to take a year as opposed to a month.

"These are good medical practice guidelines that allow us to withhold information from a patient where knowledge of the course of treatment or prognosis might cause them to think adversely," Jenkins said.

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Bush to declare end to combat in Iraq soon

by Ron Fournier

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush will soon declare an official end to combat in Iraq, White House officials said Friday, previewing an address that also will outline his plans to rebuild the war-torn nation and sustain the global war on terrorism.

The speech may come as early as next week when the president visits an aircraft carrier returning to San Diego from Iraq war duty, officials said.

There has been little fighting in Iraq for days and work is already under way to create an interim government. But Bush has not declared the war over.

He is awaiting word from commanding Gen. Tommy Franks that hostilities have ended. That is expected within a few days.

Bush will discuss his goals for a free Iraq and remind Americans that the conflict was part of a broader war against terrorism, said White

Sandler shares “Anger Management” with troops

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 24, 2003) — Actor Adam Sandler is contributing to the war effort by giving free copies of his No. 1 ranked movie, “Anger Management,” to all military installations.

The first copy is headed to Camp Doha, Kuwait, and will air during the week of April 20. Sony Pictures is currently duplicating tapes for other installations.

Service members stationed both abroad and the United States will have the chance to view the movie for free.

Sandler, who co-stars in the movie with Jack Nicholson, said he doesn’t care about any lost revenue in giving the film to service

members — he just wants to do something for troops.



Before the film starts, Sandler gives a brief message saying

thank you, and wishing service members a safe return home.

“Anger Management” was released April 11, and grossed \$42,220,847 in its first week. Sandler has starred in the “Waterboy,” “Billy Madison” and “Happy Gilmore.”

In his latest role, Sandler plays Dave Buznik, a mild-mannered, non-confrontational guy. But after an altercation aboard an airplane, he is remanded to the care of an anger management therapist, Dr. Buddy Rydell, who is played by Jack Nicholson. However, it is Nicholson’s character who could probably use some anger management lessons.

House officials, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said Bush does not plan to declare victory, in so many words, because coalition forces have not completed key missions, including the finding of weapons of mass destruction, the creation of an interim government and confirmation that Saddam Hussein is captured or killed.

Bush will not deliver the address from the Capitol, as requested by some lawmakers, officials said. Instead, aides are considering venues at the White House or, more likely, outside Washington.

The likeliest site is the USS Abraham Lincoln, which has been at sea for nearly nine months. The White House announced Friday that Bush would travel to San Diego next Thursday for remarks aboard the ship and for an overnight stay.

Next Friday, he will leave the ship and travel to Santa Clara for another speech.

TRICARE complying with stricter rules on healthcare information continued

Not only is the patient’s privacy protected in treatment facilities, it’s also protected in the patient’s home. For instance, Jenkins said, a patient might not want to share information left on his or her home answering machine about a follow-up appointment notice. In such a case, the patient could request a confidential communication at an alternative location.

Jenkins said HIPAA privacy applies to individually identifiable health information — paper, electronic or oral communications. This includes information that identifies the patient and relates to his or her past, present or future health condition.

But he noted that TRICARE and military treatment facilities are required to give health information about any individual to the Department of Health and Human Services for use in an investigation of a complaint.

“We’re permitted to use and disclose health information for many reasons, such as to assist public health officials in doing disease surveillance in a community,” he said. “We can also share military health information on active duty people to help commanders determine an active duty member’s ability to perform a particular element of a mission, or to determine their fitness for duty.

“We can also use health information to inform appropriate authorities, law enforcement (officials) and others of victims of spousal or child abuse,” Jenkins noted.

Patients who have complaints about their privacy being compromised should contact the military treatment facility privacy officers or the TRICARE privacy officer.

They can also go directly to the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Civil Rights Web site and follow the complaint and inquiry process at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>.

Rumsfeld: Iraqi captives providing info

by Matt Kelley

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. officials are interrogating Iraqi officials who have been taken into custody and some of them are "providing information that is useful," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Friday.

Rumsfeld told a Pentagon briefing that between 7,000 and 7,500 Iraqis have been taken prisoner, but that lower-level ones like foot soldiers are being released.

Among those held, Rumsfeld said, were "12 of the 55 most-wanted officials ... as well as a number of others who were not on that list."

He said they are being held in various locations. The Pentagon has no plans to send any of them to its prison facilities at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, where captured Taliban and al-Qaida fighters are being held from the war in Afghanistan, he said.

Rumsfeld expressed satisfaction that Tariq Aziz, the former deputy prime minister under Saddam Hussein, was among those in custody. Aziz surrendered on Thursday.

Powell defends firing at Palestine Hotel in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of State Colin Powell is defending the U.S. shelling of the main hotel for journalists in Baghdad that killed two cameramen.

Powell wrote Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio in response to her inquiry that "our forces responded to hostile fire appearing to come from a location later identified as the Palestine Hotel."

One of the cameramen, Jose Couso, was Spanish. Powell's letter appeared Thursday in the Spanish newspaper ABC and was confirmed Friday by State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

"Our review of the April 8 incident indicates that the use of force was justified and the amount of force was proportionate to the threat against United States forces," Powell said.

A Ukrainian cameraman for Reuters, Taras Portsyuk, also was killed.

Powell told Palacio that "we share your sorrow over Mr. Couso's death and fully appreciate your desire for further information about this tragic event."

The Spanish cameraman worked for the Telecinco channel in Madrid.



A top Iraqi intelligence officer was the latest apprehension confirmed Friday.

Aziz "clearly is a very senior person and was in that regime and we intend to discuss with him whatever he's willing to discuss with us," Rumsfeld said.

Aziz's prominence in the regime could make him a source for the best information yet on the fate of Saddam and his two sons, as well as the location of any hidden weapons of mass destruction.

Asked whether fugitive Iraqi leaders might be hiding together, Rumsfeld said that to suggest they were all in one place "would be clearly not the case."

"I would guess that some got over the border and are finding haven in some place. Others we found and still others are in the country in various places trying to be inconspicuous and we'll

eventually find them," he said.

Rumsfeld said that along with the Iraqis taken into custody were some Syrians who were "in there doing things they shouldn't have been doing."

Overall, "We're keeping the hard cases separate for the most part. We're systematically going through less-hard cases and releasing people." He said about 1,000 had been released so far.

"We obviously don't want to hold any more people than we have to," Rumsfeld said.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said earlier Friday that Aziz's capture "portends for a stronger future for the people of Iraq, a future of freedom as vestiges of the Baath regime are captured or turn themselves in and we welcome this capture."

The capture of top Iraqi figures could prompt other wanted officials to turn themselves in, Pentagon officials said. Information from the others already in custody also could lead to more on the wanted list, the officials said.



www.dtic.mil/armylink/

Two U.S. soldiers die, five hurt in Afghan clash

KABUL, Afghanistan (Reuters) - Two U.S. soldiers were killed and five were wounded on Friday in a battle in southeastern Afghanistan in which at least three opposing fighters also died, the U.S. military said.

A statement from Col. Roger King, spokesman for the U.S. military in Afghanistan, said one Afghan government soldier was also hurt in the clash with about 20 fighters near a U.S. base at Shkin in Paktika province near the border with Pakistan.

The statement said the clash took place near a site used in the past by opposing forces to launch rocket attacks after a platoon-sized unit responded to a report of suspicious activity.

The statement did not identify the U.S. units involved and said names of the casualties were being withheld pending notification of next of kin. It did not give the condition of the wounded.

At a briefing in Washington, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, provided more details on the incident.

"The resulting firefight cost the lives of two U.S. servicemen. Additionally some U.S. and Afghan soldiers were wounded. We engaged the enemy from the ground and from the air and continue to look for them," Myers said.

About 11,500 U.S.-led coalition troops are in Afghanistan pursuing remnants of the former Taliban regime and the al Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States in 2001.

King's statement said a second platoon-sized quick reaction force

was sent to the area of the attack and the fighters fled across the border into Pakistan. The statement did not identify who the fighters were.

"U.S. forces estimate at least three enemy were killed in the exchange of fire," King's statement said.

It said two coalition air force F-16 Fighting Falcons, two U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolts and two AH-64 Apache attack helicopters were called in but did not find a target when they reached the area.

The deaths of the soldiers came just ahead of a planned trip to Afghanistan by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who is to visit the U.S. headquarters at Bagram Air Base to the north of Kabul and Afghan leaders in the capital on Sunday.

Diplomats say Rumsfeld's visit will be aimed at assuring U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai that Washington remains committed to Afghanistan in spite of engagements elsewhere like Iraq.

Afghan officials have reported an upsurge in activity by remnants of the Taliban who they say are attempting to regroup.

They say a spate of recent attacks since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq appeared to have been orchestrated from Pakistani territory.

Pakistan was the key supporter of the Taliban until it sided with the U.S.-led "war on terror" after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Last month two U.S. special forces soldiers were killed and another wounded in an ambush in the south of Afghanistan blamed on Taliban remnants, and six U.S. military personnel died in a helicopter crash.



A U.S. soldier patrols the narrow alleyways of a neighborhood in Baghdad on Thursday. AP photo by Lefteris Pitarakis

Officials to open WTC memorial contest

NEW YORK (AP) — Come Monday, any adult, anywhere in the world will be able to submit a design for the memorial that will be built at the World Trade Center site.

In seeking an original, fitting idea, “we felt it was important to extend a worldwide invitation to anyone, anywhere, regardless of professional accreditation,” said Matt Higgins, a spokesman for the Lower Manhattan Development Corp.

On Monday, the agency will issue design guidelines and begin accepting registrations. The competition will be open to anyone 18 or older who pays a fee of \$25, which will be used toward the creation of the memorial.

Anthony Viscardi, a professor of architecture at Lehigh University, said opening the competition to non-professionals was a positive move, one that would allow the greatest chance for a fitting design.

Viscardi pointed out that Maya Lin was a student when she submitted her winning design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

“You’re probably going to get one or two or more (ideas) that give you that refreshing point of view,” he said. He said even ideas that won’t work may provide inspiration for the eventual winner.

Competitors must register before May 29, with designs accepted through June 30.

The memorial design will be chosen by a 13-member jury and incorporated into architect Daniel Libeskind’s redevelopment plan for the 16-acre trade center site. The Libeskind plan designates a 4 1/2 acre setting for the memorial that includes the footprints of the twin towers.

The jury, which includes Lin and the widow of a trade center victim, expects to select a winning design in the fall.



*An Iraqi girl gives a kiss to Pfc. Louis Livargas, of Somerville, Mass., with Alpha Company, 37th Infantry, during a foot patrol in downtown Baghdad on Friday.
AP photo by Brennan Linsley*

To prepare for the memorial competition, a group of LMDC board members, staff and victims’ families traveled to a number of memorials, including the Vietnam memorial, the Oklahoma City bombing memorial and the civil rights memorial in Montgomery, Ala.

The trade center memorial guidelines will reflect existing plans that call for “a unique and powerful setting,” providing a space for contemplation while conveying historical authenticity.

Construction of the memorial is scheduled to begin in 2006.

The agency’s decision that a single memorial honor all victims equally has already angered some firefighters and others who believe uniformed service members killed Sept. 11 deserve special recognition.

But the development corporation suggested the stories of the rescue workers’ historic sacrifice should be told at the interpretive museum that will be built near the memorial.

General Motors Corporation recalls 570,000 pickups, vans, SUVs

DETROIT (AP)— General Motors Corp. said Friday it was recalling 570,000 Chevrolet and GMC pickups, vans and SUVs to repair a mirror control switch in the driver’s door that could cause a fire.

The recall covers 1997-98 Chevrolet and GMC Suburbans, 1997 Chevrolet Blazer and GMC Jimmy midsize sport utility vehicles, 1998 Chevrolet C/K and GMC Sierra pickups and 1998 Chevrolet Astro and GMC Safari midsize vans equipped with remote power adjustable mirrors.

In some of the vehicles, a short circuit could allow continuous current flow through the switch, producing enough heat to possibly start an electrical fire in the door.

GM said there have been 67 electrical fires in which the mirror control switch was cited as the source. The incidents have resulted in three reported injuries.

About 507,000 of the affected vehicles are in the United States and 46,000 are in Canada. The rest are outside of the United States and Canada.

GM said it will notify owners and instruct them to bring the vehicles to Chevrolet and GMC dealers. A fused jumper harness will be installed for free in the door wiring harness leading to the mirror switch.

**[www.goordnance.
apg.army.mil](http://www.goordnance.apg.army.mil)**



Iraqis line up along a wall outside a central Baghdad house to scour the 64 pieces of paper taped to a wall, searching for the names of their disappeared relatives Thursday April 24, 2003. After U.S. forces drove Saddam's government into hiding two weeks ago, the man responsible for this nameless cemetery handed over a document to a group of former Iraqi prisoners. It was a list of names _ with numbers corresponding to the graves. (AP Photo/Niko Price)



Quartermaster Mike Ciaciura, right, kisses his girlfriend Anna Pellum, left, on the pier at Naval Station San Diego after the USS Mobile Bay returned from the Persian Gulf, Friday, April 25, 2003. Two Navy missile cruisers that took part in the attack on Iraq, the USS Shiloh and USS Mobile Bay, returned home Friday to joyous reunions between sailors and loved ones they left behind nearly 10 months ago. (AP Photo/Denis Poroy)



Lance Cpl. Dustin Yeager, right, and Cpl. March Moyer, ammunition technicians with the Marine Service Support Group, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, inventory crates of ammunition Friday before it is placed on landing craft for transport back to ships with the Nassau Amphibious Ready Group. Photo by Mark D. Faram, Military Times staff.

Soldiers with the 2nd Infantry Division check their weapons Friday at a base in Seoul. Photo by Chung Sung-Jun, Getty Images

